

Atty. Dkt. No. K01-003
(formerly 0005.US00)

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 22, 35, 36, 38 and 45 are currently being amended.

Claims 39 and 46 are requested to be canceled.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1, 5-22 and 26-38, 40-45 and 47-53 are now pending in this application.

The amendments to the claims in this reply are made to correct obvious typographical errors and to more clearly the present invention. No new matter has been added and, as will be clear from the below discussion, no claim has been amended in response to a prior-art rejection or for any reason related to patentability.

Claims 1, 5-9, 11, 12, 16, 20, 22, 26-29, 32, 33, 35-40, 45-47 and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,506,393 to Ziarno (hereinafter "Ziarno I") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,519,572 to Riordan et al. (hereinafter "Riordan"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-19 and 42 for at least the following reasons.

As described in a previous reply, embodiments of the present invention relate to novel database structures and methods and systems for storing and analyzing data within a database. In one embodiment, virtual data islands are partitioned inside a database, each virtual data island containing data owned by a specific client engaged, for example, in a fundraising campaign.

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Data within each data island contains one or more constituent records having information about individuals, and each individual is assigned a unique identifier that is unique across the various data islands. A linking table of individual unique identifiers for constituent records, together with information identifying which of the data islands contain information about each constituent, may also be provided. The linking table allows database searching across islands and aids, for example, in speeding such searching.

Thus, embodiments of the present invention provide a way for data from numerous clients, such as various nonprofit organizations, to be stored such that each client can opt to share the data with other clients. Also, clients may obtain access to an analysis of data such that the analysis is based upon a larger sample and additional data from the client's own data. In order to prevent duplication of individuals in the sample for the analysis, a unique identifier is assigned to each individual in the linking table. The unique identifier is unique to individuals whose records may appear in more than one virtual data island. Thus, a more accurate result of the analysis is obtained. Accordingly, independent claim 1 recites "a linking table including a compilation of unique identifiers of individuals whose records are in the one or more virtual data islands." Independent claims 22, 35, 36, 38 and 45 recite similar features.

The cited references fail to teach or suggest at least this feature of the pending claims. Neither Ziarno I nor Riordon relates to analysis of data in one or more virtual data islands partitioned in a database and, therefore, does not contemplate the problems addressed by the present invention. The Office Action cites Ziarno I as disclosing each individual being assigned a unique identifier at col. 9, lines 45-67. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this interpretation of the disclosure of Ziarno I.

Ziarno I relates to a donation kettle which permits a contributor to make a donation using cash and non-cash methods, such as credit cards. The donation kettles may be provided with a receipt generator located near the donation kettle or at a remote location. The receipt generator prints a receipt for the contributor to use for tax purposes. See Ziarno I, col. 9, lines 45-67. The Office Action cites this aspect of Ziarno I as disclosing a unique identifier. However, the receipt

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generator provides a receipt to the contributor. Ziarno I fails to teach or suggest the receipt generator generating a unique identifier associated with the contributor to uniquely identify the contributor. Further, nowhere does Ziarno I teach or suggest storing any such unique identifier in a linking table. Thus, Ziarno I neither teaches nor suggests at least this feature of the independent claims. None of the other cited references teach or suggest this feature.

In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, "the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations." M.P.E.P. § 2142

Since the cited references fail to teach or suggest at least one limitation of the independent claims, claims 1, 22, 35, 36, 38 and 45 are patentable. Claims 5-9, 11, 12, 16, 20, 37 and 53 depend, either directly or indirectly, from allowable claim 1 and are, therefore, patentable for at least that reason, as well as additional patentable features when those claims are considered as a whole. Similarly, claims 26-29, 32 and 33 depend from allowable claim 22, claim 40 depends from allowable claim 38, and claim 47 depends from allowable claim 45. Thus, claims 26-29, 32, 33, 40 and 47 are also patentable for at least that reason.

Claims 17, 42, 48 and 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ziarno I in view of Riordan and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,539,446 to Chan. Claims 10, 13-15, 41, 43, 44 and 50-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Ziarno I and Riordan, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,308,201 to Pivowar et al. Claims 18, 30 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ziarno I in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,665,952 to Ziarno. Claims 19, 21 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ziarno I in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,535,871 to Romansky et al.

Claims 10, 13-15, 17-19, 21 and 52 depend from allowable claim 1; claims 30, 31 and 34 depend from allowable claim 22; claims 41-44 depend from allowable claim 38; and claims 48-51 depend from allowable claim 45. Thus, claims 10, 13-15, 17-19, 21, 30, 31, 34, 41-44, 48-51

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are patentable for at least that reason, as well as additional patentable features when those claims are considered as a whole.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1674. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-1674. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1674.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

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By

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